Accreditation of colleges and universities

2148. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the stand that the issue of accreditation of colleges and universities is not related to any cut in financial grant by the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development had announced last year that all colleges and universities would be accredited by the National Accreditation and Assessment Council;

(c) whether the Ministry and the University Grants Commission had also recommended that the concept of autonomy of colleges would lead to better standards in higher education; and

(d) if so, by when final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) UGC / Ministry of Human Resource Development and State Governments have issued general guidelines to all the Universities and colleges for assessment and accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The principle of autonomous colleges is embodied in the National Policy of Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992). The Programme of Action, 1992 also emphasises the need for speedy implementation of the scheme of autonomous colleges in the country.

Functioning of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (India), Mumbai

2149. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to

Unstarred Question 2888, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 2000 and state:

(a) the details of the report submitted by the Group which was constituted by High Level Committee to look into the overall functioning of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (India), Mumbai;

(b) whether the said report has been considered by the High Level Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The Group constituted by the High Level Committee visited the Institution of Mechnical Engineers (India), Mumbai on 27-9-2000 to review its functioning. The detailed report from the members is still awaited. After receipt of the report the same will be placed before the High Level Committee.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Cattle feed to Students in mid-day meal scheme

2150. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that corn products, genetically modified and meant for cattle feed in the United States, were being given to children in India, as part of the mid-day meal programme;

(b) whether these cattle feed are not suitable for human consumption; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to prevent use of this cattle feed in the mid-day meal programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir. Under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (popularly